GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4203
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2000
NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF MUSIC ON AIR
KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Programme of Music originally proposed for ninety minutes in AIRhas been curtailed to less than sixty minutes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for the stopping of weekly north and south zone regional hook up concerts of classical music in AIR;

(d) the reasons for stopping of auditions for the fresh artists; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to promote national classical music on AIR?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a), (b)&(c): Prasar Bharati has informed that keeping in view the programme exigencies, the duration of National Programme of Music was reduced from 90 to 60 minutes since July 1998 but frequency of broadcast was increased from once to twice a week. In order to popularise classical music and give a wider projection to classical music artists, it was decided to broadcast classical music twice a week i.e. on Saturday and Sunday in the National Programme of Musicfor a duration of 60 minutes on each day, in place of weekly south and north zone regional hook up which had a limited broadcast coverage at the regional level only.

(d)&(e): Prasar Bharati has informed that fresh auditions have been stopped temporarily to clear the pending backlog of audition cases. It remains the continuous endeavour of Prasar Bharati to encourage Indian classical music by regularly broadcasting classical music programmes besides the National Programmes of Music. Apart from this, AIR also organizes Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan concerts and other invited audience concerts of both Hindustani and Karnatic Classical Music throughout the country.